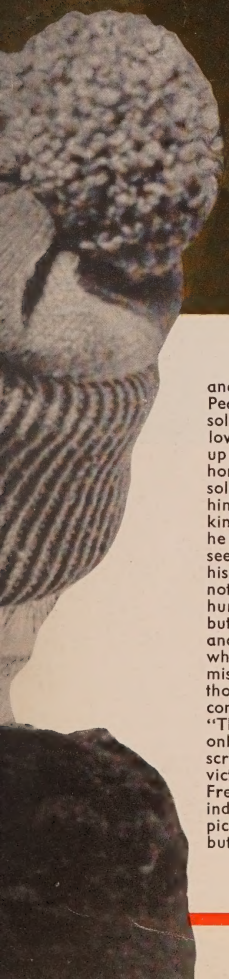
THE SUN SHINES FOR ALL

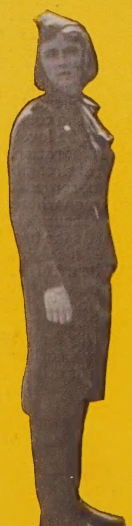
The sun shines for us all. Every man has a right to be happy. But there is still sorrow in the world, there are still the orphaned and the unfortunate. Of all man's afflictions, the worst is war. War stamps out millions of lives. How many promising young careers it cuts short, how many strong men it cripples, physically and mentally! That is why cinematographers return so often to the subject of war, and make films they hope will not only remind men of its hardships, but help them in their fight for peace on earth. The sun shines for us all. Yet many men come back from war who, though they can feel its warmth, will never again see the irridescent shimmer of its rays. For country they have sacrificed their greatest blessing – the ability to see the faces of those they love and to enjoy the beauty of nature. "The Shun Shines for All" is a picture about a fine, intelligent man who put aside his work to defend his country. It is the story of a brave man who lost his sight at the front, and came out of that tragedy strong enough to get back into the running after the war, and teach school again. May 8, 1945. On that never-to-be-forgotten day, the guns were silenced, the people at the front and in the rear sighed with relief. Peace! How many hopes and plans hinge on that little word for each and every one of us. Peace is life, and work, and our dream of happiness. That dream was very strong in Nikolai Saveliev, an officer of the Soviet Army, on May 8, 1945. Before the war he had followed one of the noblest callings known to man – teaching. At the front, when death was always so near, he had pondered much on life. And now, on this first day of peace, his thoughts were all of the future. He wanted to go back to the school where he had taught boys and girls the true meaning of life and the importance of peace. A noble aspiration! But was he destined to realise it? Writhing in mortal agony, the enemy collected his forces for one last desperate blow: Nazi tanks broke through on the west, and attacked. Many a soldier died the death of the brave in that fatal battle. Among the fearless, there was one coward who saved his own skin at the expense of his comrades. However, victory was again for the courageous

His son has come back from the war blind. But thousands of men have not returned at all. Maxim Saveliev, a good, wise man, sees in the return of his son a wonderful act of Providence.

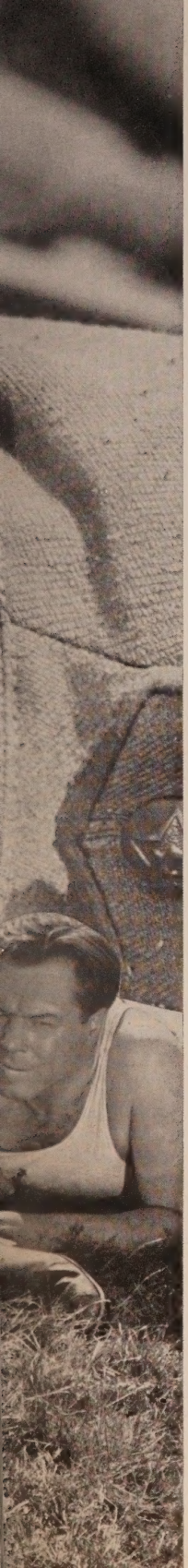
The role of the father is played by Nikolai Sergeyev, known to film-goers by the pictures "The Big Family", "Alien Kin", and "Fathers and Sons", among others.



and the true: Nikolai Saveliev stood up to an enemy tank single-handed and won the day. He won, but he was blinded... Peace dawned on his land, and the victors celebrated. With beating hearts they listened to the unaccustomed silence. One soldier who had helped to forge that victory, but had lost his sight, wept in solitude. How could he go home to those who loved him, when his return would mean nothing but tears and sorrow for them? How could he go on living if he had to give up the work he loved? A hundred problems pulled at his tortured mind; despair held him in its merciless grip. But at home, his family rejoiced in his return. He was back and alive, and that was the main thing, relatives and friends consoled him. But as the days passed, one as dark and monotonous as the next, the troubles he had anticipated overwhelmed him. He had to learn to read and write all over again and to grope his way in darkness. Nikolai Saveliev was by nature the kind of a man who had to conquer adversity. It was not enough for him just to live from day to day. He wanted much more; he had to get back to real work. "Living one's life is harder than walking across a field", says a Russian folk saw. Nikolai seemed to meet up with unexpected difficulties all the time. Not everybody could help a fellow man tactfully, without offending his self-respect. Even Nikolai's wife Elena made him doubly conscious of his helplessness by the nervous irritation she could not conceal. She had no sympathy for his desire to return to teaching. This lack of faith in him on the part of those he loved hurt him more than anything else. The respective attitudes of the people around him were a great test not only of his character, but theirs, too, and he was grateful to his father, and many of his friends, for their tact, and their faith in his moral strength and his ability. Nikolai Saveliev made the grade. He began to teach school again. Then one day he met the ex-sergeant who had taken to his heels on that fatal May 8th, and who, by the way, had long avoided this encounter with the man whose misfortune he was to blame for. And Nikolai felt that, blind as he was, he was still the more fortunate of the two, because although the sun shines for all, love and respect for one's fellow men lights one's way more brightly than the sun. As the two confronted each other, there was a brief moment when it seemed to the coward that the blind man had regained his sight. "The Sun Shines for All" is a Mosfilm production, directed by Constantin Voinov after the script by Semyon Freylich. This is only Constantin Voinov's third picture, but every picture by this young director has been well received. Both he and the script writer, Semyon Freylich, belong to the generation of Soviet people who bore the brunt of the last war, and forged the victory. He, too, like the hero of his film, took part in the life and death clashes with fascism on scorched battlefronts. Semyon Freylich, Constantin Voinov and many other young cinematographers came to the films in a period of fruitful activity for the industry. Their aim is to make pictures on profound problems of life and human psychology. Like Constantin Voinov's earlier pictures, "Sisters" and "The Three Who Came Out of the Forest", the appeal of "The Sun Shines for All" lies not in its action, but in its attempt to penetrate to the deepest recesses of the human heart.



Officer Nikolai Saveliev (played by Valentin Zubkov) and Svetlana, a war nurse (played by Lilia Aleshnikova) served in the same unit. Nikolai is Svetlana's first love. She knows he is married, and that they must part. What she does not suspect is that she will be called upon to take Nikolai home, a blind, unhappy man, and to protect him from the first shocks that life has in store for him.



Nikolai is home again. The difficulties of the war are over, but no smaller difficulties loom ahead. His wife (Tatiana Konukhova) is happy to have him with her once more. But has he the right to be a burden to her? Does she still love him? They had only been married two months when the war came. Hundreds of questions plague Nikolai, and he does not know any of the answers.

For Svetlana, the nurse, life is empty now that she must part with Nikolai. She has taken the blind officer home, but a tactless question from his wife makes her leave their house abruptly, deeply hurt and conscious of a great loss.

One day Nikolai set out alone for the centre of town, without a word of warning to anyone. Many were the times he had trudged this road in the old days, gone down these stairs, and stood looking out over his native town. But how long and hard the way seems now!

The director of the film Constantin Voinov ● Script writer Semyon Freylich ● Cameraman Anatoly Kuznetsov ●

THE CAST

Nikolai Saveliev .... Valentin Zubkov
Svetlana ..... Lilia Aleshnikova
Nikolai's father ... Nikolai Sergeyev
Nikolai's wife ... Tatiana Konukhova
Sergeant Koren .... Evgenie Burenkov

Nikolai realises that a pupil is answering with a book open in front of him. This is something he is powerless to cope with. The blind man leaves the classroom without a word. He feels that he can never work as a teacher again...
He is wrong...